

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): A wheelchair lift comprising:

a platform for carrying a passenger;

a lifting mechanism secured at one end to a vehicle and at the other end to the platform adjacent to an inboard end of the platform for moving the platform between a ground level position, a transfer level position and a vertically-stowed position, wherein the lifting mechanism comprises a vertical arm secured adjacent to the inboard end of the platform;

a plate pivotally connected to the inboard end of the platform and moveable between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position;

a first linkage ~~cooperating with~~ extending between a location on the vertical arm of the lifting mechanism and ~~coupled to~~ the platform for moving the platform from the transfer level position to the vertically stowed position; and

a second linkage ~~coupled to~~ extending between the plate and ~~directly connected to a~~ location on the first linkage for moving the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the lifting mechanism comprises a parallelogram structure.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the first linkage comprises a telescoping member.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the first linkage comprises a pair of arms of unequal length and the second linkage comprises an actuator link pivotally extending between the longer arm of the pair of arms of the first linkage and the plate, the actuator link operable to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the first linkage comprises a pair of arms of unequal length.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 20 wherein a longer arm of the pair of arms is a telescoping member.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the first linkage comprises a first arm extending from the lifting mechanism and a second arm extending from the platform.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 22 wherein the second arm is a telescoping member.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 23 wherein telescoping movement of the second arm moves the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 24 wherein the second linkage comprises an actuator link extending between the second arm of the first linkage and the plate, the actuator link operable to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 17 wherein contact between the first linkage and the parallelogram structure causes the plate to move between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein movement of the lifting mechanism relative to the first linkage causes the plate to move between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the lifting mechanism acts upon the first linkage to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the first linkage acts upon the second linkage to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 29 wherein the lifting mechanism causes the first linkage to act upon the second linkage to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A wheelchair lift comprising:

a platform for carrying a passenger;

a lifting mechanism secured at one end to a vehicle and at the other end to the platform adjacent to an inboard end of the platform for moving the platform between a ground level position, a transfer level position and a vertically-stowed position, wherein the lifting mechanism comprises a vertical arm secured adjacent to the inboard end of the platform;

a plate pivotally connected to the inboard end of the platform and moveable between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position; and

a linkage coupled to the plate for moving the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position, the linkage ~~cooperating with~~ extending between a location on the vertical arm of the lifting mechanism and ~~coupled to~~ the platform for moving the platform from the transfer level position to the vertically-stowed position, wherein the linkage comprises a telescoping member.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The wheelchair lift of claim 31 wherein the linkage comprises a first arm extending from a location on the lifting mechanism and a second arm extending from the platform.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 32 wherein the second arm is the telescoping arm.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 33 wherein the telescoping movement of the second arm moves the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 34 comprising an actuator link extending between the second arm of the linkage system and the plate, the actuator link operable to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 36 (new): A wheelchair lift comprising a platform for carrying a passenger, a lifting mechanism secured at one end to a vehicle for moving the platform between a ground level position, a transfer level position and a vertically-stowed position, the lifting mechanism having a vertical arm secured to the platform adjacent to an inboard end of the platform, a plate pivotally connected to the inboard end of the platform and movable between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position, a linkage extending between a location on the vertical arm of the lifting mechanism and the platform for moving the platform from the transfer level position to the vertically stowed position, and an actuator coupling the linkage and the plate for moving the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 37 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 36 wherein the linkage comprises a pair of arms of unequal length.

Claim 38 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 37 wherein the actuator is coupled to the longer arm of the linkage.

Claim 39 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 36 wherein the lifting mechanism acts upon the linkage to cause the actuator to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 40 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 36 wherein the linkage acts upon the actuator to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.